platoon's internal frequency.

In addition, such a change would give two other vehicles in the platoon the radio assets to operate as a command vehicle if the platoon leader's vehicle were disabled. As the platoon is now equipped, if the command vehicle is disabled, a section leader with only one radio in his vehicle has to try to run the platoon.

These proposed changes are offered for consideration to the light units already formed and to those to come. Making all five changes would greatly improve the lethality of the TOW platoon and the light infantry battalion, particularly in combating enemy armor formations. Equally notable is that the changes would make the light division more effective in mid- to high-intensity scenarios. And the best part is that all of them could be made within the constraints the division must live with. In such a context, the changes would be virtually "free."

Certainly, there are other ideas that warrant consideration, either building on what is suggested here or addressing other parts of the light division. But one thing is certain—the light infantry division is here to stay. The question is how to improve it to get "a bigger bang for the light infantry buck."

Lieutenant Allen L. Tiffany is scout platoon leader, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry at Fort Ord. He previously served as TOW platoon leader, rifle platoon leader, executive officer, and S-1 in the same battalion. He is a 1984 ROTC graduate of the University of Kansas at Lawrence.

From HMMWV to Ambulance

LIEUTENANT ROBERT L. PORTER

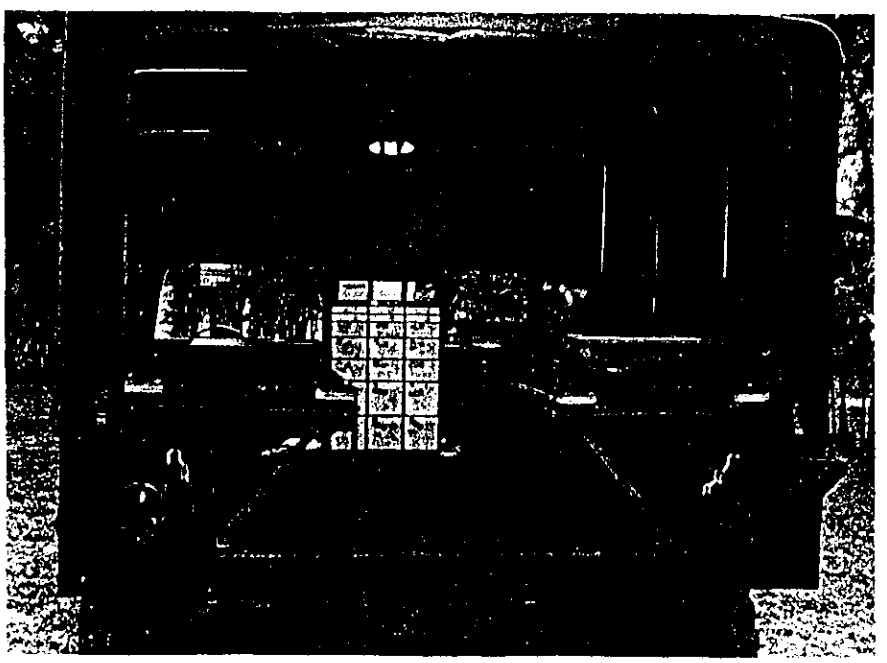
There is little question that the evacuation of wounded and sick soldiers during combat is of paramount importance. For a light infantry battalion, the evacuation problem is particularly acute because it does not have any vehicles with a litter-carrying capability.

Part of the problem is caused by the Army's delay in fielding the M997 HMMWV (high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle) ambulance. This delayed fielding, combined with the inability of both the M578 ambulance (gamma goat) and the M718A1 quarter-ton frontline ambulance (FLA) to support light infantry units, inhibits the evacuation of litter patients from a battlefield environment.

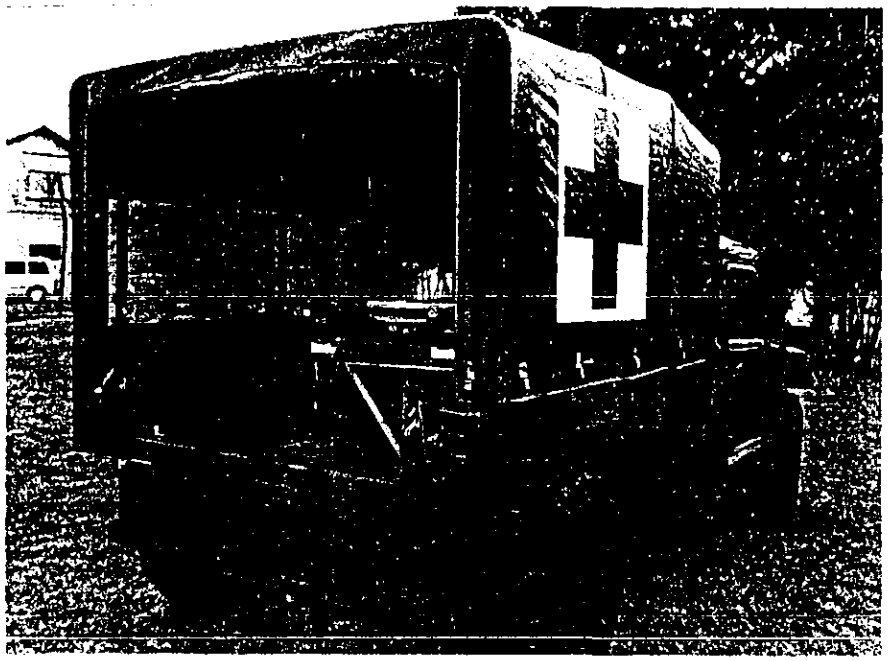
One solution to this problem was found by my unit, the 4th Battalion, 87th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. *Using some creativity and $235 worth* of locally purchased and supply-channel materials, we created a HMMWV FLA that provides the same capability as our previous FLA; with a minimum of work the vehicle can be easily changed back to its cargo-carrying configuration. When the modified vehicle was tested during the battalion's external evaluation at Fort Hunter Liggett, California, it performed superbly in both capacities.

In order to do this, we made four modifications to the vehicle:

- First and foremost, the bottoms of the troop seats on each side were replaced with modified seat/gurneys. The gurneys were equipped with pad-



HMMWV converted to frontline ambulance.



HMMWV ambulance with one gurney in "up" position.

ded centers (for ambulatory patients) and mahogany rails on which litters could slide. Litter straps and brackets like those in M1010 ambulances were used to stabilize the litters during transport.

• Extended platform braces were fabricated from three-quarter-inch angle iron to support the gurneys in the down position. By using the two rear troop seat brackets to support the braces, the gurneys could be stored in the "up" position parallel to the backs of the troop seats when the vehicle was used to haul cargo.

• A load-bearing bar was constructed of two strands of three-quarter-inch angle iron to span the width of the HMMWV bed using the forward troop seat brackets. This bar accommodates the extended width of the gurneys and prevents weight from being placed on the dividing wall. It also serves as an anchor point for a medical chest.

• A 24-volt power source was added to the cargo area of the HMMWV to power a small electric fan and a lighting system.

These modifications have been implemented throughout the 25th Infantry Division as an interim solution to the evacuation problem until the M997 is fielded. Even then, the modifications will be maintained to increase the organic litter-carrying capability at battalion level.

As one of the Army's combat-ready light infantry divisions, the 25th is constantly seeking innovative and creative ways to use the equipment it has to improve its rapid deployability and its battlefield effectiveness. This HMMWV modification is one example.

Lieutenant Robert L. Porter proposed the HMMWV modification while serving as the medical platoon leader, 4th Battalion, 87th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii. He is now assigned to the 25th Medical Battalion. He is a 1986 ROTC graduate of the University of Michigan.

PSYOP Units
How to Use Them

LIEUTENANT PETER D. FLAMMING

With their speakers and amplifiers, tactical psychological operation (PSYOP) units look like portable rock concerts, but they don't have to be an infantryman's nightmare of noise. Properly used, they can work for, not against, tactical objectives, and chances are that many exercises will include them in the near future.

Since the Army began a push to improve its psychological operations several years ago, the capabilities of PSYOP units have expanded greatly. This is due largely to the creation of a PSYOP military occupational specialty and the specialized instruction that goes along with it. Unfortunately, though, there is not much information available to infantrymen on how they might use and exploit these units. A brief outline of PSYOP concepts, therefore, should help.

Tactical PSYOP units are composed